

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Committee meeting of February 4, 2008

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Ted Packard, and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

*The minutes from the January meeting were adopted without changes.

Update on ABAC appointment and annual report. Jack submitted ABAC nomination papers for Jeff Roth to the Selectmen. He also submitted ABAC's annual report to the Selectmen and Town Manager.

Update: Jack has been invited to speak at Arlington Rotary Club meeting on Weds morning, April 16. Jack was invited to speak about the BIKE-Arlington Tour. He will also give a general talk about ABAC's mission.

Discussion of request for input on the draft Alewife Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study from MAPC. Jack told us that MAPC has the best bike plan of any state agency. They are looking for comments on the scope of this document and an informal letter of support from the Town. Scott suggested maintenance as an additional topic but basically we support the plan's proposed scope. We discussed access to the Minuteman Bikeway from Route 16 and Mass. Ave. Christopher suggested a bus lane on Route 2. Scott added that the scope should include better crosswalk design. Jack also suggested bike lanes on the service roads along Route 2 and better connections to bike paths in the area. Joey will incorporate our suggestions into the Town's overall comments to MAPC.

Update on pilot plowing project on Minuteman Bikeway. Scott told us that usage on the path this winter has been increasing. He also asked whether we should define our position on making plowing the path a permanent service. Joey thought that we should take a stand. We had a discussion about whether to take a position as a committee. Jack volunteered to draft a memo (with Jeff Roth) evaluating this winter's trial to be sent to the Selectmen. The memo will include our observations on the condition of the path, the cost of the service, and how much usage there has been, and will conclude that the trial has, thus far, generally been a success.

*A vote was taken whether to send this memo to the Selectmen. There were five in favor and one abstention.

Update on Minuteman Bikeway banners in Arlington Center. Joey received a cost estimate from another vendor. There are two other vendors in the works but response has been slow. Ted asked if the DPW could do the installation. Joey answered that it wouldn't save much and that a professional installation would last longer. Jack asked whether ABAC's grant fund could be applied to the cost of the banners. Joey told us that there is a state grant that could pay for signs and banners.

Request regarding Town Garden wall. Joey made a request of the committee. She is looking for a letter from ABAC in support of restoring the wall along the public garden in Arlington Center. We were somewhat doubtful about how this project fits our mission. We decided that we could write letters individually.

Update on planning for the ABAC Winter Social. We need to pay only for two hours of use of the Whittemore-Robbins House rather than the three we thought we needed to pay for. Scott will contact Linda Guttman at Best Friends Cocoa to determine whether she will supply hot chocolate this year. Stephan asked if we have facilities available for showing digital slides. Jack will determine what we need and where we can get it.

Review upcoming events, including future ABAC meeting dates. Scott reminded us about the Green Line planning meeting in Somerville this week. Scott also told us that the Town is trying to persuade the T to have a meeting in Arlington.

Ron told us about the tri-town bike path meeting discussing placing location markers on the path for safety purposes. We suggested that we ask the police what kind of markers they would find the most useful. Scott suggested that we also contact the Arlington, Virginia, bike committee for advice on what system they are using.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.